

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, May 26, 2006

AS THE 2006 BOATING SEASON GETS UNDER WAY, THE MPDC HARBOR PATROL STRESSES SAFETY

With Memorial Day comes the unofficial start of summer – and the summer boating season. Again this year, the MPDC's Harbor Patrol Unit is reminding boaters to respect the water and to practice important safety measures. In particular, boaters are being warned that boating while under the influence is strictly prohibited on DC's waterways. Harbor Patrol officers will be out this holiday weekend – and throughout the summer – looking for impaired boaters and other safety violations. Boat owners and guests are also reminded of the critical importance of personal flotation devices – or "PFDs," for short. US Coast Guard regulations require that all boats have a wearable type PFD for each person on board or being towed. Each PFD must be in good condition, readily available, and the proper size for the intended wearer. Boaters need to ensure that there are properly fitting PFDs for all children who may be aboard their vessels. In addition, boats 16 feet in length or longer must carry a Type IV throwable device. Most adults need an extra 7-12 pounds of buoyancy to keep their heads above water. A PFD can provide that "extra lift" to keep you afloat until help comes. Your weight isn't the only factor in how much extra lift you need. A person's body fat, lung size, clothing, and water conditions are also important.

① For more information about PFDs and their use and care, as well as other safety and equipment requirements, visit:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547718,mpdcNav_GID,1550,mpdcNav,|.asp

① The Harbor Patrol offers boating safety courses that are required of anyone who operates a boat in DC. Get the 2006 schedule at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,559121,mpdcNav_GID,1550,mpdcNav,|31855|.asp

MPDC'S MISSING PERSONS GUIDE OFFERS TIPS FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

On May 25, the nation observed National Missing Children's Day, a time to remember America's missing children and to encourage vigilance in protecting our youth. To support parents and guardians, the MPDC has a comprehensive Missing Persons Guide. The online guide provides helpful advice and resources for parents and guardians whose children are missing. The guide stresses that the first 48 hours following a missing person or runaway episode are the most important in locating a child. While many runaway children return home – or, in the case of missing children, are located – during this period, it is critical to take every action available to help locate and safeguard our children. Parents are reminded not wait 48 hours to report your child missing. There is no time limit that you must wait to report a person as missing, whether he or she is considered missing or a runaway. And, contrary to some commonly held beliefs, police do not wait a designated period of time (such as 24 or 48 hours) to begin investigating a missing person report. The Missing Persons Guide includes instructions on what to do immediately if you believe your child is missing. The online guide also includes information on what preparations to take ahead of time, which will assist investigators if your child does become missing. It also includes valuable telephone numbers and other resources.

① Details at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547480,mpdcNav_GID,1549,mpdcNav,|.asp

SPOTLIGHT ON ... THE ASIAN LIAISON UNIT

May is designated as Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in DC. As the District's population continues to grow and diversify, the city's Asian community is among the fastest growing. To meet the challenges of policing in this expanding and increasingly diverse community, the MPDC's Asian Liaison Unit was established in 1996 to act as a conduit between the Police Department and Asians living in the Washington, DC area. Organizationally part of the First Police District, the ALU is a citywide unit led by Sergeant Kenny Temsupasiri, and including officers, detectives and civilian employees. The members of the ALU speak Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Thai. Responsibilities of the ALU include general police operations in the Chinatown area, conducting criminal investigations involving Asians as either victims, offenders or both, assisting with translation services and promoting community policing in the Asian community by attending community meetings, workshops and safety seminars in all seven police districts. The Asian Liaison Unit is located in the new Gallery Place complex, 616 H Street, NW, in the heart of Chinatown.

AGGRESSIVE SPEEDING RATE REMAINS LOW IN APRIL

Aggressive speeding in DC's photo radar enforcement zones continued at a near-record low rate during April 2006. Fewer than 2.4 percent of all vehicles monitored by photo radar during April were found to be speeding aggressively (that is, traveling above the threshold speed established for the program). That compares with an aggressive speeding rate of almost 31 percent nearly five years ago, and represents the third lowest aggressive speeding rate in the program's history. The record low rate—2.0 percent—occurred in February 2006. The aggressive speeding rate for the month of April has declined sharply over the past five years: from more than 11 percent in April 2002, to 3.1 percent in April 2005 and 2.4 percent last month. During April 2006, nearly 3 million vehicles passed through enforcement zones monitored by the District's stationary and mobile photo radar cameras, but fewer than 70,000 were found to be speeding aggressively. In April 2004, by contrast, fewer than half as many vehicles were monitored by photo radar (1.4 million), but nearly the same number of potential violators were caught on camera that month (65,000). The latest data show that average speeds of all vehicles on DC roadways monitored by photo radar are substantially lower today than they were when the program began nearly five years ago. For example, on streets with a 30-mph speed limit, the average speed of all vehicles monitored by photo radar was just under the speed limit (29.4 mph) in April 2006—down from 37.6 mph in July 2001. Since August 2001, more than 1.87 million photo radar Notices of Infraction have been mailed and just over 1.4 million have been paid, resulting in fines in excess of \$106 million.

NEWS & NOTES

Chief Ramsey Receives Two Honors. Two prestigious organizations have presented Chief Ramsey with honors this month. The Greater Washington Area Chapter of Hadassah, a Jewish women's organization, presented the Chief with its 2006 Myrtle Wreath Award for creating a unique officer training program with the US Holocaust Memorial Museum that uses the Holocaust to explore current issues in civil rights and police relations. Also, the Brady Center To Prevent Gun Violence awarded the Chief its Jim Brady Law Enforcement Award for his leadership in supporting gun violence reduction efforts.

Joseph K. Smith Dinner for Camp Brown. The Joseph K. Smith Memorial Summer Camp Fund, under the direction of the Chief's Citizen Advisory Council (CAC), is holding its annual Camp Brown Dinner on Friday, June 2, from 6:30-10 pm, at the Washington Navy Yard, Anacostia Banquet Room (8th and M Streets, SE). Tickets for the dinner are \$40 each; even if you can't make the dinner, donations are accepted. For tickets to the dinner, or to make a donation, make checks payable to the "Joseph K. Smith Memorial Summer Camp Fund," care of George W. Fenderson, 202 Varnum Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20011. For more information or to support this youth crime prevention effort, contact CAC member Stanley J. Mayes, Treasurer, at (202) 772-3217.

① To learn more about the unit and its services, visit:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547480,mpdcNav_GID,1549,mpdcNav,|.asp

① One of the ALU's responsibilities is to investigate reported hate crimes against members of DC's Asian communities. For more information about hate crimes in DC, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547599,mpdcNav_GID,1553,mpdcNav,|.asp

① The MPDC has other specialized liaison units for DC's Latino, Gay and Lesbian, and Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities. Learn more about these and other units at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,Q,537792,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp

① Get a statistical summary of DC's photo radar program at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,548012,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp

① Through April 2006, there has been a 68 percent reduction in red-light running at intersections equipped with safety cameras. Details at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,Q,547886,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 5/26/06
♦ 2006: 59	
♦ 2005: 65	
♦ % Change: -9.2%	
♦ Closure Rate: 49.2% (29 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 5/20/06
♦ Total: 1,017	
♦ Weapons: 23	
♦ Robbery: 14	
♦ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 30	
♦ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 52	
♦ Narcotics: 196	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 5/20/06
♦ Arrests: 77	
♦ Robbery: 14	
♦ Curfew Violations: 59	
♦ Truants: 115	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 5/24/06
♦ May: 144	
♦ 2006 Total: 960	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 5/26/06
♦ 2006: 21	
♦ 2005: 20	
♦ % Change: +5.0%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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